



# Metro Codes

E - News for Neighborhoods

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

## Abandoned and Inoperable Automobiles - More Than Just An Eyesore -

**W**e've all seen them; old, wrecked, inoperable cars and trucks sitting in our neighbor's yard are parked out on the street. Or perhaps there is the burn-out hulk in the alley. If you have seen these hoopty's<sup>1</sup> or if you happen to own one, then you know first hand what we're talking about. These vehicles create more than just an eyesore for the community; they can be hazard in other ways.



Often, inoperable vehicles are used to store illegal drugs, especially those parked on the road or in an alley. Dealers will stash the drugs in the vehicle and make drug deals from the vehicle. These vehicles usually do not

belong to the dealer, so anything found in the car can't easily be traced to him.

In some extreme cases, dead vehicles have contributed to rodent and snake problems after these vehicles have been allowed to become part of the landscape, with grass and weeds growing up all around them; and in some cases, vegetation has actually been seen to grow inside the vehicle. And vehicles without windows or broken windows are havens for mosquitoes.



In Metro, all vehicles must meet three main conditions:

1. The vehicle must be fully operational under its own power
2. The vehicle must have a current license plate
3. The vehicle must be parked in on a hard surface

Additionally, vehicles must have an engine, battery, all windows, inflated tires, radiator, gas cap, bumper and ... It's hard to imagine someone holding on to a vehicle that is in serious disrepair, but there are some folks who have no intention

of ever repairing a dead vehicle. If the vehicle doesn't run, then it has to be stored in a garage or someplace approved for the storage of a motor vehicle. We often here folks who say their dead vehicle is their "Hobby Car"<sup>2</sup>. Unfortunately, if the vehicle doesn't run or have a current license, it can't be openly stored on your property.



1. Hoopty – hoo' · p · ty, denotes a dilapidated and/or inoperable motor vehicle, or a vehicle in poor condition; usually cheap and/or broken down. Can be any size, make or model, but must (or should) be embarrassing to drive for some reason.
2. Hobby Car – refers to an unlicensed and inoperable motor vehicle that the owner maintains only to tinker with and start occasionally, but is generally a vehicle that is either uneconomical to repair or beyond repair.



# September Is.....National Preparedness Month!

## **PREPAREDNESS MAKES SENSE! GET A KIT, MAKE A PLAN, BE INFORMED!!**

Family Emergency Kit - A family emergency kit should contain essential items your family may need in the event of a real emergency. The kit should be easily accessible, in a central location and have enough supplies to last three days. Here is a list of items you should include in an emergency kit:

- At least one large plastic container with a water-tight lid
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Non-perishable/pre-cooked food and a manual can opener
- 3 gallons of drinking water per person (Rotate every six months)
- Essential medications/spare glasses (Rotate frequently)
- Cash and credit cards
- Sturdy shoes
- Several changes of clothes (Applicable to the season)
- Several blankets
- Re-sealable plastic bags and large trash bags
- Duct tape and sheets of heavy plastic
- Hand tools, such as screwdrivers, pliers, hammer, small pry bar, adjustable wrench, etc.-



◆ To learn about how you and your family can prepare for emergencies or to get involved, visit [www.nashville.gov/oem](http://www.nashville.gov/oem).



People who are visually impaired, on oxygen, in a wheelchair or have other mobility issues may need help during a disaster or community crisis. Here are some guidelines on forming a disaster preparedness plan for people with disabilities and other special needs:

- Organize a network of people who can help you at places where you spend a lot of time (home, work, school, etc.)
- Identify safe places to go during a disaster (tornado, flood, fire, earthquake, hurricane). *Example:* During a tornado, the safest place in your home may be a basement or a room without windows
- Keep your service animals with you at a safe place at home or in a shelter
- Locate the main utility cutoff valves and switches in your home. Make sure you and the people in your network learn how and when to disconnect utilities during an emergency
- Identify as many exits as possible from each room and building you are in. Be sure to include the windows as exits
- Make a floor plan of your home and include your primary escape routes
- Prepare an evacuation plan before a disaster happens
- Decide what type of equipment you would need during an evacuation
- Be ready to give brief, clear and specific instructions to rescue personnel. If necessary, write down what you would say
- Choose an alternative place to stay
- Have a plan for your pet

## September is National Campus Fire Safety Month!

**N**ow that college students have settled into their dorms or apartments, unpacked and purchased textbooks, this is just a reminder of what they should have added another important item to the to-do list: fire safety.

The Center for Campus Fire Safety and Underwriters Laboratories, the International Code Council offers safety recommendations for our children:

### When students first move in:



- Make sure the smoke alarms in the room, suite, apartment and floor are in place and working. If not, contact the resident assistant, landlord or install them.
- Arrange furniture and decorations so that all automatic fire sprinkler heads are clear. Do not hang anything from fire sprinklers.
- Keep furniture clear of windows and doors for quick exiting.
- Never prop stairway doors open. Keep hallways clear.
- Identify all emergency exits on your floor. In case of fire, elevators will not be in service.
- Find the fire extinguisher and check that the pressure level is good. In off-campus housing, if there is no extinguisher, buy one and keep it in the kitchen.
- Never overload electrical outlets. Do not staple, tape or nail extension cords or run them under carpeting. Use UL-listed electrical power strips and unplug appliances when not in use.

### Throughout the school year:

- Never ignore a fire alarm; fires can spread quickly. Evacuate immediately even when there is no smoke present
- Have an escape plan and know evacuation routes.
- Always identify two ways out of a building. The entrance may be blocked.
- If candles are allowed, store in appropriate containers and handle with care. Never place an open flame near curtains, posters or anything flammable. Keep candles away from fans, open windows or anywhere they can be knocked over. Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Do not use portable grills or camp stoves inside.
- When smoking, use an ashtray. After parties, check furniture cushions for smoldering cigarette butts.

Deadly Fires Threaten College Campuses: Don't think it can't happen to you. This news release from Underwriters Laboratories (UL) provides [a checklist of safety tips](#) students can use to reduce the risk of fire.

How fire safe is your school? The Center for Campus Fire Safety provides a list of questions to ask about [fire safety on campus](#).

Campus Fire Safety Fact Sheet. Facts about [campus fires](#), including locations (on versus off-campus), number killed, schools and states. Addresses related legislation.

Check your school's fire rating. The Princeton Review lists school [fire safety ratings](#).

Fire Safety 101: for Colleges and Universities. The U.S. Fire Administration Web site has a list of [safety tips](#) on-line and to download.

Living with Fire: Campus and Student Fire Safety. Geared toward fire safety educators, this U.S. Fire Administration Program includes a variety of resources, including lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations, photos and links to help improve fire safety, both on and off-campus. The Web site, [A Program for Campus and Student Fire Safety](#), is maintained by the Center for Campus Fire Safety.

Campus Fire Safety Legislation. "Campus Fire Safety Right-to-Know" language was added to the College Access and Opportunity Act. [Read more](#).



## Metro Beautification and Metro Public Works Partner with Neighbors of Roberts Avenue on Beautification Project



*(pictured above) The new medians along Roberts Avenue.*

*(pictured at right) The spectacular flower garden median created especially for Mrs. Helen Beasley.*

When the neighbors along Roberts Avenue in East Nashville wanted to improve their streetscape they called on Metro Beautification and Metro Public Works.

The problem was at first glance a simple traffic issue - what to do with the medians that divided the road. Through neighborhood meetings and discussions with Public Works, a creative and beautiful solution was reached that satisfied traffic concerns while adding value to the area.

Metro Public Works Streets and Roads crews built new medians that include green space and trees. Neighbors planted flowers and committed to their continued care.



“Metro Beautification and Metro Public Works are delighted with the final project on Roberts Avenue,” said Veronica Frazier, Executive Director of Metro Beautification and Environment Commission. “The colorful flowers the neighbors planted on the medians are not only lovely to look at but also demonstrate in a very public way the pride that they have in their neighborhood. We appreciate the continued commitment these residents have to keeping their street beautiful.”



**Metro Nashville  
PUBLIC WORKS**

*Keep Nashville Beautiful!*

## Employee Highlights


**S**andra Custode is a Property Standards inspector assigned to the flex Team. She has been with the Department of Codes & Building Safety since April 1993. Members of the Flex Team are not assigned a specific territory; they work requests throughout the entire county. Ms. Custode has specialized in zoning violations, particularly those associated with auto related businesses. She and the other members of the Flex Team work on pro-active programs. They perform neighborhood audits, support of the Neighborhood Response Team (NRT) program and other special projects in conjunctions with the department's community support programs.



Prior to joining Codes, Sandy served as a Non-Destructive Test (NDT) inspector for metals where she performed tests of welds and assemblies on 1688 and 1689 Class Fast Attack submarines. Sandy was certified with the National Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Sandy is a graduate of the University of the State of New York with a degree in Liberal Arts and Nashville Tech, with an associate's degree in Architectural Engineering. Ms. Custode joined Codes as a Mechanical Inspector. She holds certifications with the International Codes Council (ICC) as Mechanical Inspector, Chief Mechanical Inspector and Mechanical Plans Examiner. She also holds ICC certifications as a Residential Housing Inspector, Property Maintenance Inspector and Zoning Inspector. In 2004 Sandy transferred to the property Standards division.

Sandy is a mother of two. Both of her children are accomplished musicians, and her oldest son Julio is attending UT Knoxville. Her daughter Stephanie is a freshman at Hume-Fogg Magnet School. Being a musician herself, she hosts an annual Blue Grass Pick'n celebration.



**Department of Codes and Building Safety**

Metro Office Building  
800 2nd Ave, South  
Nashville, TN 37210  
615-862-6590 / Fax 862-6593

**Mayor - Bill Purcell**

Director - Terry Cobb  
Assistant Director - Bill Penn

Office Hours: Mon-Fri / 7:30-4:00

## 11th Annual Metro Codes Charities Golf Tournament

**T**he 11th Annual Metro Codes Charity Golf Tournament will be held on October 6th at the Ted Rhodes Golf Course. This year will again be a 4 person scramble with teams made up on a blind-draw. The \$60 entry fee includes greens fee, cart, great lunch, & more prizes.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with a Shotgun Start at 8:00 a.m. Various sponsorships will be available.

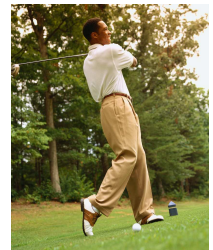
Last year's tournament, through the support of 128 golfers and 99 sponsors, resulted in a record \$20,000 being donated to three local charities through the Metro Employees Consolidated Charities Campaign (MECCC).

This year, all proceeds go to the Metro Employees Consolidated Charities Campaign for the benefit of the Easter Seals Camp on Old Hickory Lake, Miriam's Promise and Harris-Hillman School.

We look forward to this year's event and to surpassing last year's donations to the local charities. Call Jim Winchester at 262-2999 for information, registration or sponsorship opportunities. You may make your checks payable to F.A.M.C. and mail them to:

Mid - South Electric  
C/O Jim Winchester  
863 Granada Ave.  
Nashville, TN 37206

Ted Rhodes Golf Course is situated on the banks of the Cumberland River in North Nashville. The course was originally called Cumberland Golf Course and was a nine-hole course. The first nine at Ted Rhodes was built in 1953. In May of 1992, the facility was redesigned and expanded from nine to eighteen holes. The links style course incorporates lakes and bunkers to provide a pleasurable round for each golfer. Fred Bryant manages the course as the General Manager.



### PASS IT ON!



Pass the word about our newsletter! We would be honored if you would share our newsletter with your friends, family and co-workers. If anyone would like to sign up to receive it themselves, they just need to send us their email, and we will be happy to "Pass It On" to them.

**Terry Cobb** and **Bill Penn** welcome your feedback on our e-newsletter. Please send your comments to [Bill Penn](#), Assistant Director, Property Standards Div., 862-6516



For information regarding accessibility, please contact Manley Biggers at (615) 862-6521 or fax (615) 862-6499. He can also be reached at [manley.biggers@nashville.gov](mailto:manley.biggers@nashville.gov)